

# KICKSHAWS

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Kickshaws is currently being assembled by a series of guest editors. All contributions should be sent to the editor in Morristown, New Jersey.

## One-Letter Changes

Here are some fairly bizarre sentences which are modifications of various well-known sentences or phrases. Can you discern the originals? Warning: punctuation and/or capitalization can be quite different, but word lengths have been preserved.

1. Is she nice, or tame?
2. Thy bottle -- or thy bilge?
3. Leaving towel on, Lisa?
4. Tie moll, or she flogs.
5. Creak, bleak freak, or the bold grab stoves, I see.
6. Tame Ma, but do; she bald dame!
7. O, Kool Aid hit Monet; art goon pasted.
8. She'll be bather, an' toe diver.
9. Rose hasn't guilt if l lay.
10. Hope is whore; she hears it.

If you still have not hit upon the principle involved, here is a more obvious one that may shed light on the situation:

11. Single belle, single belle, mingle; I'll tie Ray.

What we are doing, of course, is changing one letter in each word.

Longer words are often hard to change in a single letter. Accordingly, I break them down into two or more shorter groups of letters, and then change one of the letters in each group. Thus, **Heil Hitler** becomes **Heil Hit ler**, which can be changed to **he'll git her**. In the following examples, the numbers in parentheses give the number of letters in each word of the original, and capitalizations are indicated by asterisks.

12. Ma? Odd hen; tacky? Some. (2 3 \*8 4)
13. Hero? No way; none so for now. (4 5, 4 8)
14. Hit the souse, or tie bra, Iris. (6 5 2 3 7)
15. Ma will irk, so robe. (2 4 \*5 4)
16. Bit the Fed? Hiding? Good. (6 \*3 \*6-\*4)
17. Done? Heed thy ad, O male. (3'1 4 3 7)
18. Flop zen? Try sweat of toe. (4 6 5 \*5)
19. I rise if I pose as I robe. (1 4 2 1 4 2 1 4)

20. Some whore; ever she gain boy (9 4 3 7)
21. We orgy? Lash lna, Tom, Al, Eph, Herb. (\*6 \*10 5 4)
22. She change? Oh, she big at bra game. (3 6 2 3 5 7)
23. She threw fit -- the pits! (3 5 6 4)
24. Ye hate get thy enema aid, then art of us? (2 4 3 3 5 3 4 3 4)
25. I chat if no fare, an' I pay it? Junk! (1 4 2 2 4 2 1 3 2 \*4)
26. Yet ye rave so, Ben? Alas! (3, 2 4 2 7)
27. She pats once; oh, joy! (3 8 2 \*3)
28. Pour honey on sour wife. (4 5 2 4 4)
29. Ron, foe? So up, wife! (3 3 4 4)
30. That is living, Ray? (\*12 3)

### Oklahoma Onomastics

Odd names fascinate me, and for some reason Oklahoma seems to have more than its share. Consider the following business establishments. **Dense Mechanical Contractors** is located in Enid -- so far, luckily, I've not had to hire them for any job requiring any degree of skill. **Failing Oil Equipment** was named for George E. Failing, but actually the firm has a wide reputation for successful operation. The **Wee Cramalot Inn**, listed in the Enid telephone directory, is apparently a pun on the well-known Camelot Inns. To me the name gives an impression of coziness, but my son, a student, has a different idea: "Maybe a lot of students go there to study for exams". And some years ago **Dr. Goosen, Chiropractor** was emblazoned on a sign in a yard on East Maine Street in Enid. Each day I drove past the sign, I expected to find that someone had added a final stroke to the N, but such a logological prank never happened.

**Larry Derryberry** is the actual name of a young man who was elected a few years ago to an important state office in Oklahoma. When I first saw the campaign sign "Vote for Larry Derryberry", I thought it was a gag. I wish I could report his middle name is Gary or Jerry. The September 16, 1981 Enid Daily Eagle carried the obituary of **Donald Gene Two Babies** (an Indian), listing among his survivors his son **Donald Gene Two Babies III** and his grandmother **Hilda Throw First** (I wonder if she had a daughter named **Hilda Throw First the Second**?).

**Pond Creek Creek** is the name on a sign by a bridge on U.S. Highway 81 near the town of Pond Creek. I suspect there is some strange extrapolation involved -- the town originally must have been named for the creek, but at a later date the creek was re-named for the town of Pond Creek, becoming Pond Creek Creek.

### Vicinals and Non-Vicinals

Here are three paragraphs. Within each paragraph, all the words have a special linguistic property; can you deduce what it is? A hint: the words in paragraphs A and B illustrate the property

and its negation; the words in paragraph C illustrate a stronger version of the property in B.

Un-lyric alto (howler!) vocalizes actively, squealing, squawking and squeaking morceaux in upward octave, as peculiar, drunk clarinet player, certainly reacting, privately quickens, plunges uneasily twice, wrecking carpeting. Whereat uncaring Mississippi mortgage-receiver did cogitate officially. tyrannically disqualify drinking Pennsylvanian categorically, thereby aggravating souse incapacitatingly.

Bedfast hedonist fights hoiden, foments bedlam; sport done, this undermost bighead sighted Jacobin post tabu documents on chipboards. Unsought, high-minded sponsors meddled -- becalmed, chided combatants, condemned cohabitations, requested support, stressed antidisestablishmentarianism.

Tut, tut! Posted bars abut depots, feed (nonstop) klutzy tux-wedded bats'-hide-donors.

The scheme behind the above three paragraphis is this: all the words in paragraph A are completely non-vicinal, that is, they are composed entirely of letters that are non-neighboring in alphabetic order. For example, the different letters of categorically, alphabetically arranged, are a/c/e/g/i/l/o/r/t/y. In paragraphs B and C. every letter in every word has, in that same word, one or more of its vicinals or alphabetical neighbors. For example, the different letters in antidisestablishmentarianism are ab/de/hi/-lmn/rst in alphabetical order. In paragraph C every letter in every word has at least one vicinal letter located adjacent to it in that word.

Paragraph C was hard to construct; however, its requirements can be slightly relaxed. One can construct a paragraph in which every word need not, by itself, be composed of adjacent vicinal letters, but still every letter in the paragraph must be preceded or followed by a vicinal letter. This has been done in paragraph D, an account of a dedicated tubaist and his playful friends.

No one defers to Ned. His tuba l jab, his red -- his reddest! -- snout l jab, as thin Mona butts his tuba, but no balk, no stop, on his tone. Don pouts, hits his tuba, but, nonstop, bars hied on; no stop. Stab, chide him? No bad cuts stop his tuba. Abe fed him nuts, basted elk hide. Jim led polka, bade him "Ned klutz -- yonder! Stop! Bah, it's bad," chided him. Ned cop out? No! "I hope fop stops this," Ron, abed (stoned on pot), spouts "Tut, tut ... ugh ... (hic!)" But, up on high, a bat spots this tuba -- Bop! -- (tuba hit). So Ned opts a bar's stop? Not so, no! On, on, on...

The first sentence in paragraphs A and B contains only non-pattern words (each letter occurs but once), but in the second sentence every word is a pattern word (it contains at least one letter more than once). The longest words in the first sentence of para-

graph A contain nine letters. Are there any longer non-vicinal, non-pattern words? The maximum length, probably unobtainable, would of course be thirteen letters.

Similarly, what is the longest possible word for the second sentence of paragraph A (a non-vicinal pattern word)? Are longer words possible for either sentence of paragraph B? What about unhyphenated words longer than **nonstop** for paragraph C? (Other seven-letter words are **stupors** and **feeders**.)

Finally, here is a short sentence whose basis of construction should be apparent: **Mosey, quick wag!** Other possible statements formed from the same letters (the odd letters of the alphabet) are: **Come, squawky GI** and **GI mosque? Wacky!** What luck do you have if you try to construct a statement using all of the even letters of the alphabet?

### In Language

Last summer, during our drive from Oklahoma to Indiana to attend the National Puzzlers' League convention, the following conversation occurred. We at times ate "out" (outside, at drive-in fast-food places) and at other times ate "in" (inside a cafe or restaurant).

"Will we be dinin' out, or dinin' in, in IN?"

"In."

"In?"

"In. In inn."

"In in inn?"

"In, in inn, in IN."

"In in inn in IN?"

"In, in inn, in IN. In inn in Indianapolis, IN."

### Number Names

Lately, puzzles based on the spelling of number names have been circulating. Here are several that may perhaps be new to you.

1. Each number name can be written out in letters: 17 is seventeen, 152 is one hundred fifty-two, 604 is six hundred four. The last number, 604 can have its letters rearranged to spell a different number, four hundred six. What are the two smallest non-negative numbers that can have the letters in their names rearranged to spell different numbers?
2. The number name trillion contains eight letters. What larger number name has only eight letters?
3. What have these numbers in common with respect to their number names: 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 61, 64, 84? What is the largest such number?
4. Nine becomes a palindrome if you remove one letter, the E. Find another number whose name becomes a palindrome after one letter is removed from its name.
5. One has its letters in reverse alphabetical order. Find a num-

5. One has its letters in reverse alphabetical order. Find a number whose name has its letters in correct alphabetical order.
6. What feature of their number names groups these numbers into pairs: 1 and 82, 3 and 8, 8 and 12, 8 and 21, 9 and 11, 10 and 98?
7. Can you find two consecutive numbers whose names have no letter in common?
8. Starting with zero and writing the names of all the integers, we do not have to use a certain letter until about a million names have been written, yet this same letter occurs in the name of a number quite close to zero. Explain this.
9. What number can be represented by another number symbol?

Finally, here's an unsolved research problem. It's easy to find a word containing eight which is not based on the number, e.g. hEIGHT. Similarly one can locate conTENT, dONE and caNlNE. For others, Alan Frank has found THREEp, carFOUR and miS-EVENt. The editor checked the Air Force Reverse Dictionary and found geni-ZERO, a variant of genisaro. Alan Frank has even found two words that contain two number names: roTENONE and miNINETWOrk (in Webster's Vest Pocket Dictionary). Can any words be found containing five, six or any higher number, or a solid seven?

### More Hospital Deliti

In the November 1982 Kickshaws, Ed Wolpow reported several hospital signs that had lost one or more letters, dramatically changing their messages. The possibilities for medical wit of this nature seem almost endless, as the following hypothetical examples show:

DRUGS<sup>8</sup> HARM for DRUGS, PHARMACY  
 GI T HERE for REGISTER HERE  
 PU REST ROOMS for PUBLIC REST ROOMS  
 LAD S REST ROOM for LADIES REST ROOM  
 ILLS PAY OFF HERE for BILLS: PAYMENT OFFICE HERE  
 DOCTORS AND NURSES L UNGE for DOCTORS AND NURSES LOUNGE  
 NO PA NTS PERMITTED for NO PATIENTS PERMITTED  
 DOCTOR'S KING for DOCTOR'S PARKING  
 AY DIE OFF for GRAY LADIES OFFICE  
 OB E S E for OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY  
 GENITAL ORATORY for URINOGENITAL LABORATORY  
 RAPIST for THERAPIST  
 S TING U S TODAY for VISITING HOURS TODAY: 7 TO 10  
 P AIN S OFFICE for CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE  
 MI STER STUD for MINISTER'S STUDY  
 MEDI A CITY for MEDICAL PUBLICITY  
 ORAL C U S S for PASTORAL COUNSELORS  
 P ALM IST for OPHTHALMOLOGIST  
 G O TO DI E for GERONTOLOGICAL MEDICINE  
 N O PAR ENT for GYNECOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
 MEDICAL LI AR for MEDICAL LIBRARY

MEDICAL BULL for MEDICAL BULLETINS  
 SIN AID for NURSING AIDES  
 RE AR M IC E for RESEARCH MEDICINE  
 FREE A P ET for FREE PAMPHLETS  
 OD D VICE for FOOD, DRINK SERVICES  
 A TE - UPS E T for CAFETERIA - UPSTAIRS, LEFT  
 DOCTOR'S S LY for DOCTOR'S SUPPLY  
 NURSE S LIE for NURSE'S SUPPLIES  
 HOS S RE AR S for HOSPITAL SECRETARIES

### Tomonyms

Tom Swifties are old hat to **Word Ways** readers, but here are a few for those who joined us recently:

"All my life I've picked pineapples," said Tom **dolefully**

"So, Moab gal, you're leaving me for that guy Boaz?" said Tom **ruthlessly**

"My Model T is a pain in the back to start," said Tom **crankily**

In the following Tom Swift variation, Tom's saying gives a clue to a word or phrase whose homonym is used to form the adverb. The clue-word itself does not usually make a good grammatical adverb, but its homonym does form the basis for it. For example:

"Would you believe I've drunk five gin fizzes?" said Tom (4,6)

The first number in parenthesis tells how many letters are in the clue-word, and the second number tells how many letters are in the adverb formed from the clue-word's homonym: thus, sloe, slowly. An asterisk means the word is capitalized.

1. "Oops! I just dropped the window glass!" said Tom (8, 10)
2. "These no-see-ums are eating me alive," said Tom (4, 7)
3. "Keep on reading me fairy stories," said Tom (\*5, 6)
4. "Who stole my Liebestraum record?" asked Tom (\*5-4, 10)
5. "I'm swaddled like a mummy," said Tom (7,6)
6. "That's the brightest star in the sky," said Tom (\*6, 9)
7. "This blood vessel is no artery," said Tom (4, 6)
8. "I just made a spare," said Tom (6, 6)
9. "This Great Lake is my favorite," said Tom (\*4, 6)
10. "This bread's a cinch to make," said Tom (5-4, 10)
11. "Boy, hang-gliding is fun," said Tom (4, 6)
12. "You're much taller than I remember," said Tom (4 4, 10)

### German Palindromes

Herbert Pfeiffer of Offenbach, currently one of the most active German palindromists, sent in the following palindrome based on 65 female names:

Ade-Lissi, Salli, Gitte, Biggi, Sara, Mizzi, Leila, Maia, Karin, Ina, Jane, Lilli, Minna, Anita, Irene, Lale, Sigi, Susan, Ines, Liane, Lea, Lolita, Karola, Lia, Liv, Elli, Jette, Dolli, Lis,

Babette, Nana, Ida, Nadia, Nanette, Babsi, Lill, Odette, Jill, Evi, Laila, Lora, Kati, Lola, Elena, Ilse, Nina, Susi, Gisela, Lene, Ria, Tina, Anni, Milli, Lena, Janin, Ira, Kai, Amalie, Lizzi, Mara, Siggi, Betti, Gilla, Sissi, Leda

He also generated the following palindrome in which the second half negates the first:

ecce!  
 geist ziert leben  
 mut hegt siege  
 beileid trägt belegbare reue  
 neid dient nie  
 nun  
 eint neid die neuerer  
 abgelebt gärt die liebe  
 geist geht  
 umnebelt reizt sieg

Translated, this reads: Behold! / Mind adorns life / Courage nurtures victories / Sympathy bears palpable contrition / Envy never serves / Now / Envy unites innovators / Tired love ferments / Mind moves / Shrouded in fog (and) prods victory. I think that it has lost something in translation.

### Rhyming Sentences

Most **Word Ways** readers are aware of British rhyming slang, in which a word such as **face** is replaced by **Chevy Chase**, or **rat** (an informer) by **cocked hat**; Julian Franklyn's book A Dictionary of Rhyming Slang, issued originally in 1960 and in paperback in 1975, furnishes an excellent introduction to the subject. I'd like to carry the British idea one step further and replace every key word in a sentence with a rhyme (ignoring articles such as **a**, **an**, **the** or short prepositions):

The rain keeps fallin' on my head / The vain creep's bawlin'  
 on thy bed

Possibilities are greatly increased if we can substitute a two-syllable word with rhyming syllables (as **voodoo** with **you knew**, **who slew**, or **do you**). The reverse transformation is also allowed: two one-syllable words in the original can be replaced with a two-syllable word with each syllable rhyming. We permit dialectic liberties, such as **kin** for **can**, and freely rearrange punctuation. Now try your hand at decoding the following rhymed mutations of various well-known phrases:

1. Two meals 1 curse: eels, hash (3 6 2 5 6 5)
2. Jake, be stout -- shoo a tall dame (4 2 3 2 3 4 4)
3. A surly word nets a squirm (3 5 4 4 3 4)

4. Stout trout rammed yacht (3, 3 6 4)
5. Why vow? Go bounce to span bland life (\*1 3 9 3 3 3 4)
6. We dare ya, brides -- love Arch! (6 3 4 2 \*5)
7. Nero? (Copulation oath!) (4 10 6)
8. Sherri kissed Gus' hand; the chap, he drew near (5 \*9 3 1  
5 3 4)
9. Why bare, Sadie? (2 4 4)
10. Show sentry neat half, hon (4 6 5 \*5)
11. A date? Call! Love, Dinah (3 5 4 2 \*5)
12. Hon, you see more live chicks! (3, 3, 5, 4, 4, 3)
13. Kissin' who, a shockin' word? (6 2 3 6'-4)
14. No way, man, to be nigh a pawn's surly knight (\*1 3 3 3  
3 2 3 4'1 5 5)
15. Now, Frau, down chow! (3 3, 5 3?)
16. May we see thee knee chef, Lee? (Here we give no hints as  
to word lengths)
17. Fie, bum! You hairy geezer -- lot you faze Kim! (\*1 4 2 4  
\*6, 3 2 6 3)
18. Kin Rod be cussed? (2 \*3 2 5)
19. Cher's so cool, Mike -- can hold drool? (5'1 2 4 4 2 3 4)
20. Liz wetter? You live, man; you relieve! ('3 6 2 4 4 2 7)
21. Hon, sniff my hand. You -- sniff my knee (3 2 2 4, 3 2 2 3)
22. Frank's living gay (\*12 3)
23. Sobbing cheater, you may crawl! (7 \*5 2 3 \*4)